announced that the site for the proposed Australian Defence Satellite Communications Station had been selected near Geraldton (Western Australia). Once established, the facility would be able to monitor the communications over the Indian Ocean. Though there have been speculative reports, there is no definite information on the likely functions of the facility or any arrangements for exchange of information with other countries.

Pakistan-Saudi Arabian Collaboration

2040. SHRI KAPIL VERMA :
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA :
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY :
SHRI SURESH PACHOURI :
SHRI MAHENDRA PRASAD :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) what new forms the Pakistan-Saudi Arabian collaboration could take in the context of Saudi Arabian acquisition of the Chinese CSS-2 Intermediate range ballistic missiles and Pakistan being quite close to its "Islamic Bomb";

(b) whether Government envisage the possibility of Saudi Arabia transferring the missiles to Pakistan and the latter using those missiles as the delivery system for their bomb against India;

(c) if so, whether Government have taken up the matter with Saudi Arabia, China and the U.S.A. to be able to make their own assessment of the above-mentioned new development and its impact on our security; if not, what are the reasons thereof; and

(d) what steps have been taken to meet the situation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) to (d). In theory, several new forms are possible but Government have been categorically assured by the Government of Saudi Arabia that the missiles are solely for that country's own security requirements and not for transfer to any other government. Government understands that this view is also shared by other governments.

International conference to make the Indian Ocean as a zone of peace

2041. SHRI KAPIL VERMA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the United States has scuttled a move by India and other littoral States of the Indian Ocean to hold in Colombo a meeting of a U.N. Committee doing preparatory work for an international conference to make the Indian Ocean a zone of peace; and

(b) if so, the reasons for opposing Colombo meeting and insisting on a meeting in New York and what are the prospects of holding the conference at early date ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH) : (a) At the last meeting of the *ad-hoc* Committtee on Indian Ocean held in New York in April this year, no decision could be taken with regard to the proposal for holding the second session of the Committee in Colombo. According to the *ad-hoc* Committee's report, this was due to a formal objection raised by one delegation.

(b) No reason for the objection has been indicated in the report though it was argued that nothing could be achieved by a Session of the *ad-hoc* Committee in Colombo in regard o the preparatory work of the Committee, which could not be achieved in New York. The prospects for holding the conference depend upon the ability of the *ad-hoc* Committee to complete the remaining preparatory work which *inter-alia* should ensure the participation in the conference of all Great powers with military presence in the Indian Ocean.